

Superintendent's Report
April 3, 2019

ENDS #1: To provide positive, safe, healthy and inclusive learning and working environments for children, youth, and staff.

The Directors and I had our spring meeting with officials from Public Health and had the opportunity to meet the new District Medical Health Officer, Dr. Kim Barker. Topics discussed included immunization, vaping, cannabis, communicable diseases, nutrition, sexual health, condom dispenser program etc. We are fortunate to have a great working relationship with our partners in Public Health and appreciate the opportunity to meet twice a year, or more often if required.

A question came up about first aid training for staff – all custodians receive first aid training annually, this includes casuals and trades staff. It is a two day course every three years and between it is a one day 6 hour refresher. Their training is a full comprehensive program including AED machines and use of the epi-pen. With teachers, our focus is on Physical Education teachers and in very small schools where there may be an itinerant teacher, we offer the training to a classroom teacher or administrator. The certification is good for a three year period – last summer 30 participated in training during the summer and it will be offered again this summer. This includes AED training. For any who still require the training, it will be offered during a District PD Day in the fall of 2019. With the number of teachers moving schools, it can be a challenge to keep updated. Many of the Community Schools Coordinators have also been trained. The Work Safe NB Legislation states that in any work place of twenty or more employees, there must be at least one trained first aid person. In the past, SISTEMA staff have joined our sessions. In at least two schools it has been necessary to train additional staff due to the health issues of students and the District provides that opportunity. Through our work with the Sweet Caroline Foundation, all middle and high school students have been trained in how to use an epi-pen, and as part of EECD Policy 704 (Health Supports), teachers need to have an epi-pen refresher each fall term. Bus drivers receive first aid training every two-years with a half-day refresher between. This is a course specific to drivers.

We will be piloting the Newcomer Support and Transition Plan (NSTP) with a sample of students at Prince Charles and Simonds High School. This plan, which is a provincial initiative, will support newcomers and international students with strategies in the areas of socio-cultural, academics and language and it is one more tool for classroom teachers to support this vulnerable student population.

Since March 1, 2019 we have registered 20 newcomer students.

ENDS #2: To demonstrate continuous improvement toward meeting provincial targets in literacy, numeracy, science (English and French Immersion) and to improve learning in and application of the arts, trades and technology.

The Grade 9 Formative Assessment Pilot Group met on March 26 – there will be a follow-up “skype” meeting with the Principals of the seven schools involved in this initiative. The Coordinators have visited high schools to discuss assessment, changing the focus from “what did I earn?” to “what did I learn?” Kennebecasis Valley High School, Harbour View High and Grand Manan Community School have been recently involved.

ASD-S had 29 students (18 FI and 11 Post-Intensive French) apply to attend the University of Moncton Summer Camp in July. There are many summer opportunities offered for students and teachers. This is

the time of year when high school students can apply for the Quebec-NB Student Exchange and we have eight to date (2020) – this is an increase over the two from this year. This is a provincial program which has not had the interest in the last few years. Of our 8 applicants, 3 are from Kennebecasis Valley High School, 3 from Sussex, one from Belleisle and one from Sir James Dunn.

FSL evening classes began this week at Rothesay High with 13 teacher participants. Registration is also happening for teachers to take summer French training in Shippagan and St. Thomas University.

On April 25 we will have 116 students and 12 teachers travel to Fredericton to participate in the annual “Friends for the Future Forum.”

Public speaking events are up and coming in April for both English and French Immersion/Intensive French students.

Grade 6 students have just participated in grade 6 numeracy benchmark assessments – these are optional for schools at grades 7 and 8.

ASD-S will host our first annual Math League Competition – Tuesday, April 9 from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. in the Saint John Office with ten middle schools and 80 students attending with teacher coaches. Next year the plan is for two events, both hosted at UNBSJ.

April 17 is “Talk to Our Kids About Money,” and teachers are being encouraged to teach one lesson about financial literacy, some schools will host “money fairs,” or have guest speakers to visit.

ENDS #3: To increase the engagement of children & youth by embedding competencies such as, critical thinking, citizenship, entrepreneurship, innovation, personalized learning and leadership in teaching and learning.

Several initiatives have taken place to support First Nations Education – e.g. St. Rose and Barnhill had a drum making workshop, Sussex Elementary is travelling to UNB – Fredericton to attend a Pow Wow, Grand Bay Primary, Champlain Heights, Fairvale, Sussex Elementary had Mi’kmaw elder Donna Augustine to present on ceremony, songs and drumming. On Saturday, April 13 we have sixty teachers registered to attend the Blanket Exercise at Quispamsis Elementary. On Sunday, April 28 Imelda and David Perley will lead a 13 Moon Ceremony at the Saint John Marina and an invitation will be extended to members of DEC. Chris Saunders Elementary and Belleisle Elementary School will have award winning dancer Possesom Paul present. This highlights only a few of the school based presentations.

Several teachers who received grants earlier in the year for their innovative projects focused on global competencies have completed their initiatives and are submitting project summaries. Staff are working on a document that aligns the global competencies with the Early Childhood Curriculum. Earlier in the year, seventy teachers participated in PD with Subject Coordinator Mark Perry and now these teachers are organizing PD for their own staff. This approach has been very positive – I met a teacher over the weekend who was so excited about facilitating the session this coming Friday, she presented her PD to her husband as a practice!

Heritage Fairs are taking place at several schools and Regional Fairs are taking place in St. Stephen on May 14 at St. Stephen Middle, in Hampton Education Centre at Hampton Middle on May 9 and in Saint John Education Centre in the Atrium of Market Square on May 2. I will attend these as my schedule allows.

We have two special “Days of Innovation” – April 4 for middle schools and April 9 for high schools. Both of these events will be held during the day at the Saint John Office and all are welcome. A program for the Middle School Day was shared with DEC via email.

On Saturday, April 13 ASD-S will participate in the NB Skills Canada Competition at NBCC. Three schools have registered. On Friday, April 12 there is a “Try a Trade” event at NBCC and twelve schools are participating. On April 23 the District Sumobot Competition will be at Simonds High School.

ENDS #6: To coordinate and maximize access to resources to support children, youth & families.

Plans are taking shape for the Turnaround Awards Ceremonies being held in May in each Education Centre – Domino’s Pizza will once again be the major Saint John Education Centre sponsor, St. Stephen Centre have a number of smaller sponsors, and in Hampton Education Centre Director Allan Davis and a committee of administrators are reaching out to local contacts for sponsorships. The Saint John event is on May 28 at Lily Lake, May 16 in St. Stephen and May 23 in Hampton Centre. Invitations will be sent to all DEC members.

Community Coordinators will be attending an event in Saint John called “Together We Care,” with a number of short presentations and display tables for the many organizations, non-profits, and service providers from the Saint John area. Many times comments are made that we may not be aware of the services available and the hope is that this event will better inform people of what is available.

Sussex Elementary PSSC is hosting a Community Health Expo designed to connect families with available services and programs – fitness, wellness, nutrition and community supports on April 4, 2019 from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Over 20 booths have been confirmed.